



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2007

No. 91

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "If we have received good things from the hand of the Lord, why should we not accept evil as well?"

Lord, great comfort is provided in this wise question of Job. In times of adversity and anxiety, it is good for us all to recall the gifts You have given us, our Creator, just so that we are able to address what confronts us. Things often taken for granted mean more when inner strength is tested.

So it is, Lord, we approach this day with renewed gratitude for good health and strong relationship in family and in colleagues in Congress. We are also grateful for Your Divine Providence which has brought to us this moment and Your Word and wisdom to guide us that we may accomplish the multiplicity of tasks set before Congress on just an ordinary day.

But since our times are so powerful and threatening, Lord, Job's advice moves us, or should, to deeper gratitude. Only then will we be able to deal with whatever evil we need to face.

The times require us, as never before, to be grateful for our constitutional government, all the natural and human resources of this country, as well as the prayers and encouragement of the American people, for everything, Lord, is Your gift to our Nation. Gratitude will be our strength, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) come for-

ward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COHEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRESS DOING THINGS TO MAKE AMERICA BETTER

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the Congress is at a low point in terms of its ratings with the American public, but I want the American public to know that I am proud to be a Member of this Congress. Congress is part of a system of government that involves the executive and a two-part legislature that includes the Senate and the House. Our system of government is the best ever known to man, and it's working; although slowly, it's working.

The country has told the Congress and the President what the American people want, and that is to bring our troops home from Iraq, or to redeploy them to fight al Qaeda in Afghanistan and other places where there is terrorism.

We have increased the minimum wage. We have put more money into Pell Grants. We have reduced the cost of college loans. We are going to try to pass a bill, which I think we will today, on stem cell research to give people with catastrophic illnesses hope for the future.

This Congress is doing things to make America better. We are doing it in a responsible way with a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Member of this Congress, and I want this country to know that this Congress is working hard and doing its job to put America on the right course. We are draining the swamp to make this a more ethical place.

TIME TO ACT ON CRISIS IN BURMA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of freedom-loving people in Burma. This week there is a delegation of leaders from Burma, ethnic minority leaders, visiting Washington. The information they bring is a stark reminder of the brutality to the Burmese people under the military junta.

The terrible offensive of 2006 continues against the ethnic Karen people and others. Over 3,000 villages have been burned. There have been over 25,000 new internally displaced people in that one province.

How can we turn our backs on people who are being ethnically cleansed through genocide, raped, shot, maimed by land mines and who watch their villages and food sources be destroyed daily? The U.S. and the international community must help provide more humanitarian assistance and protection for them.

We need to continue to push for a U.N. Security Council resolution on Burma. The U.S. needs to renew its sanctions against dictators. We need to get direct humanitarian aid to the people.

It is time to act. The people of Burma deserve to live safely and peacefully in their own land.

SUPPORT THE LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2007

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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